THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Like other members of the Committee, the representative of SCICI has also suggested some steps for the revival of the deep sea fishing industry. However, these, and suggestions by other members, are required to be considered by the Committee as a whole and a composite view taken.

(c) Does not arise.

Processing of foodgrains in the surplus States

2773. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would allow processing of foodgrains in the surplus States which can facilitate more value addition in the farmers' surplus products such as Vitamin E DDG, plastics industrial alcohol, Chemicals etc. extracted from wheat in Punjab;

(b) whether processing of Sugarcane to industrial alcohol directly by the farmers for use as an alternative fuel to petrol and other chemicals could be allowed; and

(c) whether Government would remove restrictions on the import of efficient rice-shellers and allow them to process their paddy to rice for more value addition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes Sir it is allowed, subject to rules and regulations in force.

(b) The manufacture of industrial alcohol is delicensed.

(c) Import of rice-shellers is governed by the import-export policy of the Government of India.

Expansion of Food Processing Industries

2774. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food processing industries is likely to get a boost in the near future in the country after the entry of multinational companies therein;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have done any survey for the expansion of food processing industries in the State of Bihar;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what is the future of food processing industry in the State of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) The entry of foreign companies in the food processing sector in India are expected to bring in addendent benefits of induction of modern technologies, modern managerial expertise market expansion both domestic and foreign, investment into this sector and consequent employment generation, exports, etc.

(c) to (e) While no State specific assessment of investment required for encouraging food processing industry have been made by this Ministry, under its Plan schemes, financial assistance is provided to State Government organisations/academic bodies for conducting studies to assess the potential investment required for development of food processing industries in various States/regions. One such proposal for assistance received from Bihar in this regard has been recently approved. With available raw-material resource base, there appears to be scope for

development of food processing industries in the State of Bihar.

Incentives to 'Mahua' based Food Processing Industries in Bihar

2775. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bihar is the ideal State for the establishment of 'Mahua' based food processing industries particularly for brewing beer and wine in View of availability of Mahua in abundance in the State; and

(b) if so, what incentives Government propose to give to the Mahua based food processing industries in the State of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Government is aware that mahua is available in the tribal areas of Bihar. However, beer and wine are not high priority industries and no incentives are given by the Government of India for setting up of these industries.

Delicence the foreign liquor industries

2776. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to minimise to delicence the foreign liquor industries in the country;

(b) what is the number of alcoholic distilleries in the country State-wise;

(c) whether Government are considering to bring a bill in parliament for total "prohibition" in the country under "directive Principles of State Policy" of Constitution of India;

(d) whether total "Prohibition" Act would effect adverse economic conditions of the people of the country; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) There is no proposal to delicence the Indian Made Foreign Liquor Industry in the country.

(b) The information is beign collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Lifting of ban on Cultivation and Marketing of Kesari Dal

2777. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the latest scientific analysis of "Lakhodi" or "Kesari" dal indicating that the pulse is harmless and can be safely consumed with nutritional diet;

(b) whether a representation in this regard has also been received by Government from the Academy of Nutrition Improvement, Nagpur;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to review the question of lifting ban on the cultivation and marketing of Kesari Dal imposed in certain States like Maharashtra; Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu; Uttar Pradesh; Rajasthan and others; and

(d) if so, what is the decision taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at